

REMARKS

Claims 23-42 are pending in this application.

I. The Invention

The invention is an injectable material for soft tissue augmentation, methods of preparing an injectable material for soft tissue augmentation, and also includes methods of soft tissue augmentation in which the injectable material is used. The injectable material can be used to aesthetically correct scars, wrinkles, and other similarly depressed dermal defects by filling the depression that creates the defect.

The injectable material includes blood plasma proteins, such as serum albumin proteins, very low density lipoproteins, low density lipoproteins, high density lipoproteins, immunoglobulins, fibrinogen (the precursor to FIBRIN), prothrombin, transferring, and other transport proteins. The blood proteins used in the injectable material form a material that has sufficient mass or body such that it acts as a filler of the depressed defect. The proteins contain cross-links between and among each of the individual molecules. The cross-linkages include at least one intermolecular amide bond.

The injectable materials and the methods of the invention meet a need in the art for a safe, non-antigenic, non-irritating, aesthetically pleasing soft tissue augmentation material that is longer lasting (*i.e.*, fills a depressed defect for a longer period of time) than the prior art materials. The injectable materials of the invention are easily injected, and once injected are more resistant to degradation by the natural proteases that are present in the intradermal compartments of human skin. These properties are advantageous, particularly as the environment in which a tissue augmentation device is used (dermal compartments of human skin) is populated by both proteases and components of the immune system that function to degrade most types of conventional tissue augmentation devices, or are provoked into initiating an irritating and potentially harmful humoral or non-humoral response.

II. The Rejection of Claims 23-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner has rejected claims 23-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), asserting such claims are unpatentable over the disclosure of Coleman or Pollack taken in view of: